

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in light of the remarks made herein. Claim 1, 21-28 and 30-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over 5,818,723 to Dimitri (hereinafter referred to as "Dimitri") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,324,608 to Papa et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Papa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,440,637 to VanFleet (hereinafter referred to as "VanFleet") and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,532,652 to Nagai (hereinafter referred to as "Nagai"). Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Dimitri in view of Papa in view of VanFleet in view of Nagai and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,545,865 to Albrecht et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Albrecht").

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 21-28 and 30-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dimitri in view of Papa, VanFleet and Nagai.

Dimitri is directed to a quick access data storage library with backup capability featuring bins for supporting magazines containing data storage media. The magazines can be inserted in or withdrawn from front open sides of the bins by a front magazine picker or inserted in or withdrawn from back open sides of the bins by a back magazine picker. The magazines can be moved to drives by a transport assembly whereby storage media can be transported from the magazines to the drive.

Papa is directed to methods of removing and replacing data processing circuitry in a computer without powering down the computer. Papa relies on powering down a first interface module via a power control circuit without powering down the computer such that the computer is provided arbitrary access to a second interface module prior to removing the first interface module. In the process of removing the first interface module from the computer, Papa electrically terminates and isolates electrical hardware of the computer upstream of the point where the first interface module is removed.

VanFleet is directed to a listening and display unit for playing and displaying audio recordings (such as music tapes). The unit includes a display surface for promotional and instructional messages, two or more audio jacks for connecting an audio player to a head phone jack, an AC/DC power unit to power the player units, and recessed areas for holding

recordings in various media (see Abstract, Column 2, lines 53-67).

Nagai is directed to methods for manufacturing branch connection terminals associated with a Flexible Flat Cable (FFC). Nagai purportedly provides improved mechanical and electrical connections between terminals and the flexible cable by way of Nagai's method of cutting the cable to form branch terminals.

Claim 1 of the present Application recites, "...a conductor, operatively attached to said frame, said conductor comprising both a first and second flat external surface that each extend from a first end to a second end wherein said second flat external surface is parallel to said first flat external surface between which DC power is conveyed; said conductor further comprising at least a first tap located between said first and second ends wherein said first tap provides electrical access for said drive means to receive said DC power from said power supply conveyed along said conductor in at least one common path in a direction between said first and second ends." Examiner asserts that:

"Nagai shows a conductor in Fig. 3 including both a first external surface (the surface above 12) and second external surface (the surface below 12) that each extend from a first end to a second end wherein the second flat external surface is parallel to the first external surface between which DC power is conveyed; the conductor further including at least a first tap 16 located between the first and second ends wherein the first tap provides electrical access for the drive means to receive the DC power from the power supply conveyed along the conductor in at least one common path in a direction between the first and second ends."

Contrary to Examiner's assertion, Fig. 3 does not show a first tap located between the first and second ends of Nagai's FFC, but rather at the end of the FFC as illustrated by Nagai's disclosure in column 4, lines 13-19:

"Then as shown in FIG. 3, slots 14A are formed in the FFC 11 between any two conductive strips 12 at a predetermined distance from the end of the of the FFC 11. Accordingly, a connection area A along the end of the FFC 11 and a separated area B located next to the connection area are defined. In addition to the slots 14A, cutouts 15A are formed along the longitudinal edges of the FFC 11 and in the separated area B."

The connection area A is ultimately cut to the separated area B allowing conductive strips 12 to move freely as branch terminals. Nowhere does Nagai teach or suggest an electrical power tap located between the ends of a flat conductor having a first and second flat external surface that each extend from a first end to a second end as in Applicant's invention. Because none of the references, Nagai, Dimitri, VanFleet or Papa, teach or suggest this feature, Applicant

respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 21-28 and 30-33 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 which, as discussed above, is distinguishable over Dimitri, VanFleet, Papa and Nagai, alone and in combination. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-28 and 30-33 are also allowable.

Independent claim 34 features “a flat power conductor extending from a first end to a second end, said flat conductor electrically connected to said power supply; at least a first tap located between said first and second ends wherein said tap is capable of providing electrical power from said power supply in at least one common path to said drive means via said flat power conductor.” As previously discussed, Dimitri, VanFleet, Papa, and Nagai, alone or in combination, neither teach nor suggest an electrical power tap located between the ends of a flat conductor having a first and second flat external surface that each extend from a first end to a second end as in Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 34 is allowable.

Claims 34-39 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 34 which, as discussed above, is distinguishable over Dimitri, VanFleet, Papa and Nagai. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 34-39 are also allowable.

Independent claim 40 features “a flat power conductor for transmitting said power from said power supply to said drives wherein said flat power conductor extends in length between a first end and a second end wherein a cross-section of said flat power conductor between said first and second ends is substantially rectangular, said flat power conductor comprising: at least one common power line and ground to transmit said power, a plurality of taps located between said two ends wherein said drives are electrically connected to said flat power conductor via said taps.” As previously discussed, Dimitri, VanFleet, Papa, and Nagai, alone or in combination, neither teach nor suggest an electrical power tap located between the ends of a flat conductor having a first and second flat external surface that each extend from a first end to a second end as in Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 40 is allowable.

Finally, Claim 29 depends from independent claim 1 which, as discussed above, is distinguishable over Dimitri in view of VanFleet in view of Papa and further in view of Nagai. Albrecht does not supplement or overcome the deficiencies of Dimitri, VanFleet,

Papa, and Nagai with respect to claim 1. Therefore, the combination of Dimitri, VanFleet, Papa, Nagai and Albrecht also fails to render claim 1 unpatentable, and consequently fails to render claim 29 unpatentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 29 is allowable.

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Authorization To Charge Necessary Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees associated with this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-3010.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

11/15/06



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